

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-05 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

H-03 L-03 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/114 W

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R 041608Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3422

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 5742

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XY, SL, LI

SUBJ: THE MANO RIVER UNION LIVES: FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: A) FREETOWN 1564; B) MONROVIA 4482; C) FREETOWN 1319

D) FREETOWN 1741 (10/6/73); E) MONROVIA 5153 (9/19/73)

1. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNING OF MANO RIVER DECLARATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MANO RIVER UNION (MRU) WAS CELEBRATED AT BO, GRAND CAPE MOUNT COUNTRY, LIBERIA ON OCTOBER 3. PRESIDENTS TOLBERT AND STEVENS WERE PRESENT AS WAS MOST OF THE LIBERIAN CABINET, SEVERAL SENIOR GOSL OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD OF THE CHIEFS OF MISSION AND CHARGES RESIDENT IN LIBERIA (INCLUDING U.S.) AND A HOST OF CAPE MOUNTAIN OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS. IN ADDITION MARKING MRU ANNIVERSARY, GROUND WAS BROKEN FOR 2.9 MILLION DLRS BRIDGE ACROSS MANO RIVER TO LINK LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE AT BO.

2. TOLBERT AND STEVENS SIGNED SIX PROTOCOLS DEALING WITH MRU. THEY DEAL PRIMARILY WITH ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL, ORGANI-
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ZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS. ONE INSTRUCTS MRU SEC GEN

REGISTER MRU WITH OAU ADMIN SECRETARIAT AND UN SECRETARIAT.

3. TOLBERT, STEVENS AND SEC GEN BRIGHT ALL MADE SPEECHES EXTOLLING VIRTUES, ADVANTAGES AND INTENDED BENEFITS OF MRU. BRIGHT SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USAID ASSISTANCE ON THE PREPARATORY STUDY FOR LINK ROAD AND BRIDGE. ALL THREE SOLICITED TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR FUTURE MRU PROJECTS. BOTH TOLBERT AND STEVENS EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO NEIGHBORING "SISTER REPUBLICS" TO JOIN MRU.

4. ALTHOUGH TOLBERT AND STEVENS SPEECHES FOLLOWED SAME THEMES, STEVENS MADE THREE INTERESTING DIGRESSIONS: (A) HE CALLED FOR RE-UNIFICATION OF LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE, SAYING THEY HAD BEEN SEPARATED BY "EXTERNAL FORCES"; (B) HE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO RAPID AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION STATING NO COUNTRY WITH HIGH AGRICULTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT COULD AFFORD TO MECHANIZE; (C) STATED HE HAD PERSONALLY INFORMED SEKOU TOURE OF GUINEA'S ELIGIBILITY TO JOIN MRU AND POINTED OUT THAT SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA WERE ALREADY COOPERATING ON TWO BRIDGES "IN THE NORTH" LINKING THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: THE CELEBRATION AND SPEECHES WERE TYPICAL OF EVENTS OF THIS NATURE WITH CONSIDERABLE ORATORY AND FANFARE BUT LITTLE SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOLS AND THE BRIDGE GROUND-BREAKING. NEVERTHELESS, ONE WAS LEFT WITH A DISTINCT AND POSITIVE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE A SINCERE DESIRE TO SEE THE UNION BECOME VIABLE AND PRODUCTIVE. STEVENS DIGRESSIONS, HOWEVER, CONTRIBUTED A BIT OF AN AIR OF UNREALITY TO THE PROCEEDINGS. RE-UNIFICATION, IF MEANT IN A POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL CONTEXT, SIMPLY WON'T SELL IN LIBERIA. TOLBERT SEES AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN MODERNIZING AND INCREASING LIBERIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY. HE STRESSED THIS POINT ON SEPT 30 IN HIS SPEECH DELIVERED ON HIS RETURN FROM ROMANIA. THE GENUFLECTIONS TOWARD SEKOU TOURE, WHILE NOT UNUSUAL FOR STEVENS, SEEMED OUT OF PLACE IN LIBERIA ESPECIALLY IN TOLBERT'S PRESENCE AT A NON-CONTROVERSIAL EVENT IN WHICH GUINAS WAS NOT A PARTICIPANT. PERHAPS FREETOWN MIGHT WISH TO COMMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE DIGRESSIONS.

6. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MANO RIVER UNION
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-0224
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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